

I CLAIM:

1. A roof rack for a vehicle, said vehicle having a top with at least a portion of the top mounted for movement between a closed position covering the interior of the vehicle and an open position uncovering at least part of the interior of the vehicle, said top with said movable portion in said closed position having a roof line extending below a horizontal plane, said top portion in being moved between said closed and open positions passing along a path extending above said horizontal plane, said roof rack having a main frame attached to the vehicle and a rack portion mounted to said main frame for movement relative thereto between a first position extending substantially across the vehicle above the roof line of the vehicle top in the path of movement of said top portion and a second position extending out of the path of movement of said top portion wherein said top portion with said rack portion in said second position can be moved along said path above said horizontal plane between said closed and open positions.

2. The roof rack of claim 1 wherein said rack portion is pivotally mounted to said main frame for movement relative thereto about a pivotal axis.

3. The roof rack of claim 2 wherein said pivotal axis is substantially horizontal.

4. The roof rack of claim 3 wherein said rack portion has first and second members slidably mounted to each other for movement relative to each other along an axis substantially perpendicular to said pivotal axis.

5. The roof rack of claim 1 wherein said rack portion has first and second members slidably mounted to each other for movement relative to each other along a sliding axis.

5 6. The roof rack of claim 5 wherein the first member of said rack portion is pivotally mounted to said main frame for movement relative thereto about a pivotal axis between a position extending substantially horizontally across the vehicle above the roof line of the vehicle top in the path of movement of said top portion and a position spaced therefrom about said pivotal axis.

5 7. The roof rack of claim 6 wherein the second member of said rack portion with said first member in said horizontal position across the vehicle is slidably movable along said sliding axis relative to the first member between a location extending substantially across the vehicle and a location with at least part of said second member substantially outboard of a side of the vehicle.

5 8. The roof rack of claim 7 wherein said rack portion with said second member in said outboard location is pivotally movable about said pivotal axis to move said rack portion including said first and second members to a substantially vertical position.

5 9. The roof rack of claim 7 wherein said main frame includes an upwardly open member to removably receive an end segment of said first member of said rack portion with said first member in said horizontal position and wherein said second member includes an end segment thereof overlapping said upwardly open member along said sliding axis to

maintain said first member in said horizontal position.

10. The roof rack of claim 5 wherein said first and second members of said rack portion are concentrically mounted to each other about said sliding axis.

11. The roof rack of claim 5 further including a locking mechanism to releasably secure said second member to said first member with said first member in said horizontal position.

12. The roof rack of claim 1 wherein said rack portion is pivotally mounted to said main frame for movement relative thereto about a substantially horizontal axis between said first and second positions.

13. The roof rack of claim 1 wherein said rack portion extends substantially horizontally in said first position and substantially vertically in said second position and said roof rack further includes a mechanism selectively positionable to support said rack portion in an inclined position between said first and second positions with said rack portion at an inclined angle to the vertical.

14. The roof rack of claim 13 wherein said mechanism includes a member mounted to said rack portion and movable between a retracted position and an extended position, said member in said extended position engaging the vehicle to hold said rack portion in said inclined position.

15. The roof rack of claim 1 wherein said rack portion includes at least a pair of spaced-apart,

elongated members respectively extending along substantially parallel axes.

16. The roof rack of claim 15 further including at least one tray supported on said pair of elongated members.

17. A method for operating a roof rack on a vehicle having a top with at least a portion of the top mounted for movement between a closed position covering the interior of the vehicle and an open position uncovering at least part of the interior of the vehicle, the top with said movable portion in said closed position having a roof line extending below a horizontal plane, said top portion in being moved between said closed and open positions passing along a path extending above said horizontal plane, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) attaching a main frame of the roof rack to the vehicle,
- (b) mounting a rack portion to said main frame for movement relative thereto between a first position extending substantially across the vehicle above the roof line of the vehicle top in the path of movement of said top portion and a second position extending out of the path of movement of said top portion,
- (c) moving said rack portion from said first to said second position, and
- (d) moving said top portion with said rack portion in said second position along said path above said horizontal plane to one of said closed and open positions.

18. The method of claim 17 further including the step of:

5 (e) moving said rack portion from said second position to said first position with said top portion in said one of said closed and open positions.

5 19. The method of claim 17 further including the limitations of extending the rack portion substantially horizontally in said first position and substantially vertically in said second position and selectively supporting the rack portion in a position inclined to the vertical between said first and second positions.